

# DELAINE EASTIN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

January 3, 2001

Dear District and County Superintendents  
School Principals  
Visual and Performing Arts Contacts:

## California State Board of Education Proclaims March 2001--Arts Education Month

I am pleased to send you the attached California State Board of Education Arts Education Month Proclamation for 2001. The Proclamation supports the Visual and Performing Arts as essential and integral to the basic education of all students in California public schools. You are encouraged to celebrate the accomplishments of your students in the visual and performing arts and join with the State Board of Education and the California Department of Education (CDE) in efforts to provide comprehensive dance, music, theatre, and visual arts programs.

Since 1997, when I convened a task force on arts education, an increasing number of school districts have evaluated and improved the quality and quantity of their arts education programming. The report of the task force, *ARTS WORK: A Call for Arts Education for All California Students* made five recommendations for improving arts education in our schools. While there is still work to be done, progress has been made in implementing the recommendations with the collaboration and partnerships of the entire arts education community. Please contact our Publications Department at (916) 445-1260 to order a copy of *ARTS WORK* or see our CDE website at [www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/arts](http://www.cde.ca.gov/shsd/arts).

As a result of the passage of SB 1390 (Murray), draft Visual and Performing Arts Content Standards went to the State Board of Education in December for information and are scheduled as an action item for their January 2001 meeting. The draft arts standards are available on the CDE website. Beginning in 2003, all students entering the CSU or UC system will be required to have completed a course in visual or performing arts in high school. The courses must be framed on the state arts standards.

The California Department of Education (CDE) is now in its third cycle of the \$6 million ARTS WORK Arts Education Grant Program. The application is available on the CDE website and is due March 2, 2001. The Local Arts Education Partnership Grant application is also available on the website and is a partnership program with the California Arts Council (CAC). The CAC was awarded \$10 million by the Governor this year to provide for arts education programs in the schools. Information on their programs can be found at [www.cac.ca.gov](http://www.cac.ca.gov).

The ten statewide sites of The California Arts Project, the subject matter project for the arts, continue to provide professional development opportunities for arts educators and administrators. Included in their offerings are sessions on developing school district standards in the arts and approaches to teaching a

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standards-based arts curriculum. Information is available at [www.ucop.edu/tcap](http://www.ucop.edu/tcap). To provide extensive information and resources for the arts education community and for students, the CDE awarded funding to the San Bernardino and Kern County Offices of Education to develop an on-line arts resource center. The website, [www.TeachingArts.org](http://www.TeachingArts.org) will launch its first development phase in February 2001.

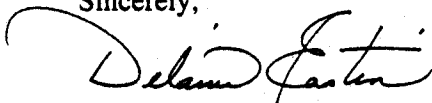
The results of a CDE statewide survey on the implementation of arts education programs will be published in early 2001. The survey found that those schools reporting "good" and "excellent" arts education programs possess three main success indicators: administrative support, community support, and professional development. To help define the aspects of a quality arts education program, the CDE provides ARTS WORK grants to school districts to be part of the Model Arts Program Network (MAP Network). This collaborative project currently includes, along with the CDE, 22 school districts, the California Alliance for Arts Education, the California Arts Council, and The California Arts Project. The CDE will publish a tool kit for completing a school district self-study and action plan for arts education programs developed and piloted by the MAP Network school districts. The tool kit will be available at a statewide conference that will be held in San Diego in May 2001. Please contact the California Alliance for Arts Education at [www.artsed411.org](http://www.artsed411.org) or e-mail [caae@artsed411.org](mailto:caae@artsed411.org) for conference and arts advocacy information.

The four professional arts teacher associations in California are also important providers of professional development and resources for arts educators. The associations include the California Dance Education Association, the California Music Educators Association, the California Educational Theatre Association, and the California Art Education Association. Arts related business and industry are also to be commended for providing resources and implementing programs that provide students with career related experiences. A key factor contributing to the success of arts programs are the many community-based local arts agencies and non-profit arts organizations who provide artists to work with students in schools, in performances and concerts, and through professional development.

The move towards improving arts education in the schools is supported in more ways than can be included here and all efforts are appreciated as benefiting the students in our schools. In closing, the California State PTA is to be thanked for their recognition of the importance of arts education as stated in their position statement, "The California State PTA believes visual and performing arts should be a basic and integral part of a balanced curriculum for all students."

We hope that during March, Arts Education Month, and throughout the year, students in California will be honored for their accomplishments in the visual and performing arts. Schools and school districts that are celebrating the arts during March should send their names and the name and contact information of a lead person to the California Alliance for Arts Education at [www.artsed411.org](http://www.artsed411.org) to be added to a growing list of arts education supporters.

Sincerely,



DELAINE EASTIN

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

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Enclosure

**PROCLAMATION  
ARTS EDUCATION MONTH  
MARCH 2001**

**WHEREAS**, Arts Education, which includes dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts, is an essential part of basic education for all students, kindergarten through grade twelve, to provide for balanced learning and to develop the full potential of their minds; and

**WHEREAS**, through well-planned instruction and activities in the arts, children develop initiative, creative ability, self-expression, self-reflection, thinking skills, discipline, a heightened appreciation of beauty and cross-cultural understanding; and

**WHEREAS**, experience in the arts develops insights and abilities central to the experience of life, and the arts are collectively one of the most important repositories of culture; and

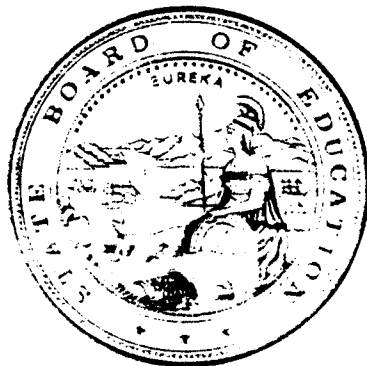
**WHEREAS**, many national and state professional education associations hold celebrations in March focused on students' participation in the arts; and

**WHEREAS**, these celebrations give California schools a unique opportunity to focus on the value of the arts for all students, to foster cross-cultural understanding, to give recognition to the state's outstanding young artists, to focus on careers in the arts available to California students, and to enhance public support for this important part of our curriculum; and

**WHEREAS**, the California State Board of Education states in its Arts Education Policy adopted in July 1989 that each student should receive a high quality, comprehensive arts education program based on the adopted *Visual and Performing Arts Framework for California Public Schools, Kindergarten Through Grade Twelve*; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, on December 6, 2000, that the State Board of Education Proclaims the Month of March 2001 as Arts Education Month and encourages all educational communities to celebrate the arts with meaningful student activities and programs that demonstrate learning and understanding in the visual and performing arts; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the State Board of Education directs that suitably prepared copies of this Resolution be distributed to all school districts, county offices of education, and schools in the State California.



*Monica B.*

MONICA LOZANO, *President*

December 2000